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East Timor was under Portuguese government rule from the 16th century. When the Portuguese dictatorship fell in April 1974, it gave the East Timorese an opportunity to choose their own path. Like many other Portuguese ex-colonies, East Timor began a process of decolonization. Tragically, this process was interrupted when the Indonesian military invaded in December 1975. This invasion has been condemned again and again by the United Nations and other international bodies. No country in the world except Australia recognises Indonesia as the ruling power.

Since 1975, Indonesian troops have committed many massacres in East Timor. Over 200,000 East Timorese, one third of the population, have died in Indonesia's colonial war. The massacre of November 12th last year is one af many massacres that the Indonesian army has committed . The November 12th massacre has drawn the attention of the world to the fact that there is another killing field still going on in South-East Asia. This killing field is the work of Indonesian troops operating under the rule of General Suharto . In spite of condemnation by the United Nations, and many countries, the killing still goes on . Amnesty International have also expressed concern about the situation in East Timor, but the Indonesian's have taken no notice,

Today in East Timor there is a terrible atmosphere of tension, fear and insecurity. Nobody knows what is going to happen to them, above all, the younger generation are most vulnerable to the Indonesian atrocities. More arrests and more torture have taken place in the last few months. East Timorese who demonstrated against the massacre have recieved very long prison terms.

As a Timorese I feel deeply shocked when Western Governments show concern about situations in the world which are very similar to East Timor, But show no concern for East Timor itself. I believe that human rights violations should be challenged every where. The world must now pay attention to our struggle in East Timor. The Timorese people have been suffering for more than 16 years. The New World Order applies selectively.

Friends and supporters it is very good to know that the Irish people are concerned about East Timor. I thank you on behalf of Timorese every where.

ESTEVAO CABRAL TIMORESE NOW LIVING IN LONDON.

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